Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /085 W

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GENEVA FOR WARREN LAVOREL (IEA)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, BY

SUBJECT: REVISION OF BURUNDI TARIFF SCHEDULE

REF: GENEVA 6434

1. WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED BURUNDI'S SCHEDULE OF BOUND TARIFFS WHICH YOU KINDLY DISPATCHED BY POUCH. BY COMPARING THOSE CATEGORIES OF THE SCHEDULE SENT TO US WITH THOSE APPEARING IN THE JUST REVISED TARRIFF SCHEDULE, AS WELL AS WITH THE CATEGORIES FOR BURUNDI PRINTED IN THE BULLETIN INTERNATIONAL DES DOUANES FOR THE YEARS 1975-1976 (JULY, 1975), IT APPEARS THERE MUST HAVE BEEN CHANGES MADE BY BURUNDI IN THE BOUND RATES DURING THE INTERVENING YEARS BEFORE THE 1977 REVISION. THIS FACT MAKES US WONDER WHETHER GATT HAS ANY RECORD INDICATING THAT BURUNDI HAD EVER RAISED THE QUESTION OF REVISING ITS SCHEDULE UPWARD AFTER THE PRINTING OF THE SCHEDULE OF BINDING RATES SENT TO US, BUT BEFORE THE REVISIONS OF LAST JULY. OR, HAS BURUNDI BEEN BLITHELY IGNORING ITS GATT OBLIGATIONS FOR YEARS?

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2. IF BURUNDI WAS NEVER AUTHORIZED TO MODIFY ITS TARIFF RATES, WOULD THE SCHEDULE OF BOUND TARIFFS WHICH YOU SENT US STILL BE CONSIDERED OPERATIVE AS FAR AS THE GATT IS CONCERNED? WE UNDERSTAND THAT ONLY CERTAIN CONDITIONS ARE RECOGNIZED IN THE GATT AS JUSTIFICATIONS FOR POSSIBLE TARIFF INCREASES ABOVE BOUND RATES. CERTAINLY, BURUNDI HAS NO BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEM RIGHT NOW WHICH WARRANTED THE INCREASES. AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE INCREASES

MOSTLY CONCERN ITEMS FOR WHICH THERE IS NO DOMESTIC OUTPUT OR POTENTIAL FOR OUTPUT ANY TIME SOON.

3. WE ALSO HAVE THREE TECHNICAL QUERIES (1) WHEN WAS THE BINDING SCHEDULE SENT TO US PUBLISHED? (2) WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE SYMBOLS T, CZ, PRM 2 & 5 & 6; AND (3) ARTICLE 28 (57) CONVEYS WHAT AUTHORITY? MARK

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